United Nations A/C.5/58/1

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Fifth Committee

Allocation of agenda items to the Fifth Committee

Letter dated 19 September 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the decisions taken by the General Assembly at the 2nd plenary meeting of its fifty-eighth session pertaining to the allocation of items to the Fifth Committee (see annex).

I wish to draw your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the report of the General Committee (A/58/250). Those recommendations were also approved by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

May I also draw your attention to the relevant paragraphs of sections IV and V of the report concerning the agendas of the Main Committees.

I earnestly request your cooperation in these matters.

(*Signed*) Julian **Hunte**

03-52716 (E) 230903

Annex

Items allocated to the Fifth Committee

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 118):

   (a) United Nations;

   (b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 119).

3. Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (item 120).

4. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (item 121).

5. Programme planning (item 122).

   [The General Assembly decided that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, the plenary, the Main Committees and the Economic and Social Council should include in their programme of work a review of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as provided below, and should transmit all relevant comments to the Fifth Committee prior to its consideration of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions and of the recommendations contained in chapter III, section C (Evaluation), of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/58/16):

Agenda item		*Documentation*	*Committee*
12.	Report of the Economic and Social Council	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. B, programme 7; and A/58/84	Second Committee
39.	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. B, programme 8; chap. IV, sect. B; and A/58/83	Plenary
52.	Oceans and the law of the sea	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. C.2	Plenary
86.	Questions relating to information	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. B, programme 23; and A/58/90, annex	Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
91.	Macroeconomic policy questions	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. C.3	Second Committee
110.	Advancement of women	A/58/16, chap. III, sect. C.4	Third Committee]

6. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (item 123).

7. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (item 124).

8. Pattern of conferences (item 125).

9. United Nations common system (item 126).

10. Human resources management (item 127).

11. Administration of justice at the United Nations (item 128).

    [The General Assembly decided to allocate this item to the Fifth Committee for its consideration, and to the Sixth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the question of an amendment to the statute of the Administrative Tribunal.]

12. Joint Inspection Unit (item 129).

13. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (item 130).

14. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 131).

15. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 132).

16. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 133).

17. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 134).

18. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (item 135).

19. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 136).

20. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (item 161).

21. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (item 137).

22. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (item 138).

23. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (item 139).

24. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (item 140).

25. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (item 141).

26. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (item 142).

27. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (item 143):

    (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

    (b) Other activities.

28. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (item 144).

29. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (item 145):

    (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

    (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

30. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (item 146).

31. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (item 147).

32. Strengthening of the United Nations system (item 59).

    [The General Assembly decided that this item would also be allocated to the Fifth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Improvements to the current process of planning and budgeting" and "Intergovernmental review of the medium-term plan and the programme budget".]

33. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chap. I; chap. VII, sects. B and C; and chap. IX) (item 12).

    [The General Assembly decided that the following chapters of the report of the Council would also be referred to the Second and Third Committees:

    Chaps. I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX.]

34. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):

    (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

35. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (item 5).

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General Assembly

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Fifth Committee

Allocation of agenda items to the Fifth Committee

Addendum

Letter dated 13 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to inform you that at the 28th plenary meeting of its fifty-eighth session, held on 13 October 2003, the General Assembly decided to allocate the following agenda items to the Fifth Committee:

1. "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" [165];
2. "Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" [166].

(*Signed*) Julian R. **Hunte**

03-55478 (E) 131003

United Nations A/C.5/58/2

General Assembly

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22 September 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund

Note by the Secretariat

1. The attention of the Fifth Committee is drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 2003/224, which reads as follows:

> "At its 30th plenary meeting, on 11 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund on its annual session of 2003 (DP/2003/26), and recommended to the General Assembly that, as proposed in document DP/FPA/2003/5, formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund be delegated by the Secretary-General to the Executive Director of the Fund."

2. The background documentation submitted to the Economic and Social Council is contained in annexes I to III.

03-52519 (E) 220903

Annex I*

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

DELEGATION OF FORMAL AUTHORITY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON UNFPA PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. This report is submitted to the Executive Board in order to begin the process of delegating formal authority to the Executive Director in matters concerning UNFPA personnel. This process requires that the Executive Board recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that formal authority be delegated to the Executive Director by the Secretary-General. This delegation of authority based on a decision of a deliberative body competent in respect of an organization such as UNFPA has numerous precedents, including the delegation of such authority to the UNDP Administrator, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), among others.

2. Formal authority in matters concerning UNFPA personnel currently resides with the Administrator of UNDP, as it has since 1969 when the Secretary-General placed UNFPA under the authority of the Administrator. In 1972, the General Assembly placed UNFPA under its authority (resolution 3019 (XXVII)). This gave UNFPA authority over its operations and enabled UNFPA to establish, with the approval of the UNDP Governing Council, its own financial rules and regulations; a priority system for resource allocations; planning and programming procedures; and methods of programme implementation. It also established that UNFPA would report directly to the UNDP Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Administratively, however, UNDP continued to represent UNFPA in the field, administer UNFPA staff and provide financial services to UNFPA.

3. General Assembly resolution 34/104 of 1979 reaffirmed resolution 3019 (XXVII) and stated that UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the Assembly. It also noted that UNFPA should continue to avail itself of the services of UNDP, including those of its representatives in the field. The General Assembly addressed the issue of UNFPA representation in the field in decision 50/438 of 20 December 1995, formally designating UNFPA country directors as UNFPA representatives.

4. Prior to 1983, the Administrator appointed the Executive Director of UNFPA. However, in 1983, the Secretary-General, for the first time, directly appointed the Executive Director of UNFPA and has made all subsequent appointments and reappointments of the Executive Director.

5. The request of UNFPA for formal authority in matters concerning UNFPA personnel has been endorsed by UNDP. UNFPA also consulted with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on this matter, and it recommended, as advised by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, that UNFPA should follow the process outlined in paragraph 1.

6. The delegation of such authority to the Executive Director would improve the management, efficiency and accountability of UNFPA personnel services and remedy the anomaly noted by internal auditors that while the Executive Director has substantive authority over UNFPA personnel, she does not have the formal authority to appoint, administer or discipline UNFPA staff.

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* Previously issued as document DP/FPA/2003/5.

7. The delegation of personnel authority to the Executive Director would not have any direct financial implications or added costs. UNFPA would continue to make use of, and pay for, certain personnel services provided by UNDP. The cost of the personnel services assumed by UNFPA would be offset by a corresponding reduction in the amount paid to UNDP.

Key background information

8. UNFPA pursued a similar process in 1991 based on the observation by the United Nations Board of Auditors that the "involvement of the UNDP Administration in the personnel matters of UNFPA causes constraints and cumbersome procedures". The Board of Auditors, therefore, recommended "the streamlining of the hiring process and the transfer of the contract procedure to UNFPA" in order to bring about "a more economic and efficient use of resources" (see DP/1991/36, Annex 2). UNDP concurred with this assessment and agreed that the Executive Director should have formal authority in matters concerning UNFPA personnel. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions also endorsed the delegation of formal personnel authority to the Executive Director (document DP/1991/40), noting that "such authority would reflect the de jure and de facto status which the Fund already has in other areas within the United Nations system" (para. 34).

9. The UNDP Governing Council concurred with this assessment and recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that formal authority in matters of UNFPA personnel should be delegated to the Executive Director by the Secretary-General (decision 91/36, para. 18). The Economic and Social Council took note of this request, as contained in document E/1991/91/Add.1, and reported on it in its official report to the General Assembly. The General Assembly took no action on the item, as it was felt that the reform process initiated at that time by the Secretary-General should be given time to unfold before entertaining requests on such matters.

10. UNFPA re-initiated its request in 1998 following a recommendation by the internal auditors that UNDP and UNFPA should "clearly define the lines of authority and the responsibilities of each organization with respect to both headquarters and field personnel". Following extensive discussions on this issue, in late 2000 the executive heads of the two organizations informed the Secretary-General that they agreed that formal authority in matters of UNFPA personnel should be transferred to the Executive Director of UNFPA. The request contained in this report to the Executive Board is the outcome of that process.

Recommendation

11. The Executive Board may wish to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that, as proposed in this document, formal authority in matters of UNFPA personnel be delegated to the Executive Director by the Secretary-General.

Annex II*

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

DELEGATION OF FORMAL AUTHORITY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON UNFPA PERSONNEL MATTERS

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Executive Director on the delegation of formal authority to the Executive Director in matters concerning UNFPA personnel (DP/FPA/2003/5). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with the Deputy Executive Director and her colleagues, who provided additional information.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report, formal authority concerning UNFPA personnel currently resides with the Administrator of UNDP, as it has since 1969 when the Secretary-General placed UNFPA under the authority of the Administrator. In 1972, the General Assembly placed UNFPA under its authority (resolution 3019 (XXVII)); however, administratively, UNDP continued to represent UNFPA in the field, administer UNFPA staff and provide financial services to UNFPA.

3. The Committee notes from paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report that the request of UNFPA for formal authority in matters concerning UNFPA personnel has been endorsed by UNDP and that the delegation of such authority to the Executive Director would improve the management, efficiency and accountability of UNFPA personnel services, and remedy the anomaly noted by internal auditors that while the Executive Director has substantive authority over UNFPA personnel, she does not have the formal authority to appoint, administer or discipline UNFPA staff.

4. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the report, the delegation of personnel authority to the Executive Director of UNFPA "would not have any direct financial implications or added costs". The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with the additional information on the financial and administrative implications of the delegation of such authority, which is annexed herein. The Advisory Committee notes that the figures provided are provisional and urges a speedy conclusion of the ongoing discussions between UNDP and UNFPA.

5. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of the report concerning the delegation of formal authority to the Executive Director in matters of UNFPA personnel.

* Previously issued as document DP/FPA/2003/10.

Annex

I. Biennial costs related to the delegation of personnel authority to UNFPA

Savings – $151,100

Subvention to UNDP for personnel legal services reduced from $218,600 to $100,000

Subvention to UNDP for the formulation of personnel policies reduced from $37,500 to $5,000*

Anticipated savings

Savings on the costs UNDP levies on UNFPA country offices for personnel-related services provided by UNDP (on a fee-per-service basis). This will mean that UNFPA country offices will no longer have to pay for personnel services that it is currently obliged to pay for, but which are, in reality, being performed by the UNFPA country offices themselves. These will include, for example, issuing their own letters of appointment and other contracts, holding their own appointment and promotion panels and maintaining their own human resources databases.

II. Anticipated savings related to the streamlining of processes

The speedier processing of disciplinary cases (currently eight cases are pending) through dedicated support for this function will reduce costs to UNFPA. This will reduce excessive time lags and the attendant costs in the legal pursuit of disciplinary cases, which, in two recent cases, have taken more than eight months in one instance, and four years in another.

* * * * * *

* The amount given is an estimate based on preliminary negotiations with UNDP.

Annex III*

2003/13
Delegation of UNFPA personnel authority

The Executive Board

Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that, as proposed in document DP/FPA/2003/5, formal authority in matters of UNFPA personnel be delegated by the Secretary-General to the Executive Director.

17 June 2003

* Previously issued in document DP/2003/26.

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Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund

Note by the Secretariat

Corrigendum

Paragraph 1

The paragraph should read:

1. The attention of the Fifth Committee is drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 2003/224, which reads as follows:

> "At its 30th plenary meeting, on 11 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the decisions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund adopted at its annual session of 2003 (see DP/2003/26), and recommended to the General Assembly that, as proposed in document DP/FPA/2003/5, formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund be delegated by the Secretary-General to the Executive Director of the Fund."

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Fifth Committee
Agenda item 121
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2004

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with the provisions of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see General Assembly resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, annex, art. VIII, para. 3) and the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention in the amount of $227,600 for UNIDIR for 2004 from the regular budget of the United Nations. A related provision in the amount of $473,700 to finance this subvention for the biennium 2004-2005 is included in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 under section 4, Disarmament.

03-52896 (E) 290903

1. At its forty-first session, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the Institute's programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2004 (see A/58/259). The present report, reflecting the updated estimates that have since been provided by the Institute for review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, is submitted to the Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention of $227,600 for 2004 from the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. In the report of the Director of UNIDIR on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2002 to July 2003, it is stated that the welcome cost adjustment for the present biennium should be applied in future bienniums and that efforts to ensure that it is increased to an adequate level should be undertaken with sustained vigour (ibid., para. 6).

3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005, under section 4, Disarmament (A/58/6 (Sect. 4)), contains a provision of $473,700 representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium. Notwithstanding the inclusion of the necessary provision in the programme budget, a formal request for a subvention of $227,600 for the year 2004 is submitted to the General Assembly, in keeping with established procedure.

4. Under section IV of General Assembly resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, the Secretary-General is requested to report annually to the Assembly on the situation of the Institute. In this context, it is reported that the financial situation of UNIDIR is as follows:

(a) Funds available at the beginning of 2003 amounted to $1,275,822, and an additional $166,033 is required as an operating cash reserve;

(b) Total income for 2003 is estimated at $904,848, from the following sources: voluntary contributions and public donations ($617,248); interest income ($48,000); the subvention from the United Nations regular budget ($227,600); and miscellaneous income ($12,000). It is also estimated that of the total voluntary contributions and public donations, approximately 28.1 per cent will be used for special projects and 76.9 per cent for other purposes, including administrative costs. The details of the revised estimated contributions from voluntary sources for 2003 and 2004 are provided in annexes I and II;

(c) Total revised estimated expenditure for 2003 is $1,568,300, including a provision of $55,900 for programme support costs. Requirements for 2004 are estimated at $1,421,000, inclusive of $49,700 for programme support costs. The breakdown of revised estimated expenditures for 2003 and estimated resource requirements for 2004 is provided in annex III;

(d) Available funds at the beginning of 2004 are estimated at $612,370. In addition, an operating cash reserve estimated at $166,033 will be maintained for 2004.

5. **Should the General Assembly decide to approve the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, no additional provision would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

Annex I

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: revised income from voluntary sources, 2003 and 2004

(United States dollars)

Donor	*2003*[a]	*2004*[a]
A. Governmental contributions		
Belgium	10 774	–
France	300 000	300 000
Germany	2 500	–
Greece	7 800	7 800
India	10 000	10 000
Israel	10 000	10 000
Luxembourg	2 870	2 000
New Zealand	2 730	–
Norway	95 000	95 000
Republic of Korea	27 500	25 000
Switzerland	48 474	40 000
United States of America	5 000	–
Subtotal (A)	**522 648**	**489 800**
B. Public donations		
German F. E. Stiftung	10 000	–
Graduate Institute for International Studies[b]	25 900	–
Graduate Institute for International Studies[c]	23 200	–
Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (United States)	25 000	25 000
Landmine Action	10 500	–
Subtotal (B)	**94 600**	**25 000**
Total voluntary contributions (A+B)	**617 248**	**514 800**

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[b] This contribution comes from Finland through the Graduate Institute for International Studies.

[c] This contribution comes from France and Switzerland through the Graduate Institute for International Studies.

Annex II

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: estimated income from voluntary sources, 2003

Donor	*Total contribution*
Belgium (received)	10 774
France (received)	300 000
Germany (pledged)	2 500
Greece (pledged)	7 800
India (received)	10 000
Israel (pledged)	10 000
Luxembourg (received)	2 870
New Zealand (received)	2 730
Norway (pledged)	95 000
Republic of Korea (pledged)	27 500
Switzerland (received)	48 474
United States of America (pledged)	5 000
German F. E. Stiftung (pledged)	10 000
Graduate Institute for International Studies (received)	25 900
Graduate Institute for International Studies (received)	23 200
Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (United States) (received)	25 000
Landmine Action (received)	10 500
Total	**617 248**

Annex III

Estimated resource requirements, 2003 and 2004

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Resource requirements	*(a) 2003[a] estimate*	*(b) 2004[a] estimate*	*(c)=(b)-(a) Increase/ (decrease)*
A.	Direct programme and administrative costs			
	Salaries and related staff costs	518.4	518.4	–
	Temporary assistance for meetings	1.0	1.0	–
	Consultants' fees and travel	60.0	20.0	(40.0)
	Ad hoc expert groups	30.0	44.2	14.2
	Personal service contracts	610.4	553.5	(56.9)
	Official travel of staff	90.0	50.0	(40.0)
	Language training	1.0	1.0	–
	Other specialized training	5.0	5.0	–
	Other contractual services	2.5	2.5	–
	Hospitality	4.0	4.0	–
	Rental of conference room	2.0	2.0	–
	Rental of conference service equipment	1.0	1.0	–
	Maintenance of office automation equipment	2.0	2.0	–
	Paper for internal reproduction	10.0	10.0	–
	Subscriptions and standing orders	2.5	2.5	–
	Acquisition of office equipment	5.0	5.0	–
	Subtotal	**1 344.8**	**1 222.1**	**(122.7)**
B.	Programme support costs			
	(5 per cent of A, less United Nations subvention)	55.9	49.7	(6.2)
	Total expenditure (A+B)	**1 400.7**	**1 271.8**	**(128.9)**
C.	Operating cash reserve			
	(At least 15 per cent of A, less United Nations subvention)	167.6	149.2	(18.4)
	Total (A+B+C)	**1 568.3**	**1 421.0**	**(147.3)**

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

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United Nations A/C.5/58/4

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 26 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations, Ousmane Moutari, concerning a request for exemption for his country under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex).

(*Signed*) Julian R. **Hunte**

03-53816 (E) 021003

Annex

I am fully aware that requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations have to be considered by the Committee on Contributions, and that any such request has to be submitted by the Committee at least two weeks before its session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999.

Had it been possible to anticipate the situation, Niger would have appeared before the Committee on Contributions and provided the fullest possible supporting information, including information on economic aggregates, government revenues and expenditure, foreign exchange resources, indebtedness, difficulties in meeting domestic or international financial obligations and any other information that might support the claim that failure by Niger to make necessary payments had been attributable to conditions beyond its control.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Niger has not been able to fully pay its contributions and, as a result, has lost the right to vote in the General Assembly since 1999. The causes of non-payment are, inter alia, the coup d'état of April 1999 and the military transition of one year to set up a democratic regime. After the free and democratic elections of December 1999, the new democratic regime was obliged to pay more than 12 months of salary in arrears for civil servants, pensions and scholarships.

This problem has now been partly solved and Niger has signed a financial agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Niger, although, one of the least developed countries, has, since becoming a member of the United Nations in 1960, always faithfully paid its contributions.

Despite the economic and social difficulties faced by Niger, my Government is actively working to obtain the necessary amount to restore its right to participate in the work of the United Nations. My Government hopes that an improvement in its situation would permit payments in the near future and is planning to submit a schedule for the payment of its contributions and arrears at a later date.

On instructions from my Government, I kindly request that, on exceptional basis and in light of the well-known, genuine difficulties faced by Niger, that consideration be given to granting Niger exemption under Article 19, until June 2004.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly and be considered under item 124, Scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, during the main part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ousmane **Moutari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative